

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00066 220802Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 AGR-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 OES-03

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R 211240Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3196

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

FOR STATE AND AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EAID, RO, ZA, MZ

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE ON MOZAMBIQUE GRAIN SUPPLIES

1. IN EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE SPECULATION IN ESSENTIAL STAPES,
MOZAMBIQUE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ISSUED COMMUNIQUE ON
JANUARY 17 GIVING FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON SUPPLIES OF RICE,
CORN AND WHEAT (ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF LATTER BEING 100,000
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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00066 220802Z

METRIC TONS, OR ROUGHLY 2,000 TONS PER WEEK, ALL OF WHICH

IS IMPORTED):

(A) WHEAT: 1,200 TONS PURCHASED FROM SOUTH AFRICA HAS ARRIVED AND 1,300 TONS MORE EXPECTED NEXT WEEK AS STOP-GAP; 16,000 TONS BOUGHT FROM U.S. ARRIVING IN FEBRUARY RATHER THAN JANUARY "DUE TO DELAYS AT ORIGIN", MAKING RATIONING NECESSARY; 2,000 TONS HAS BEEN DONATED BY ZAMBIA (ETA NOT GIVEN); WHEAT FROM ROMANIA HAS BEEN INITIATED (ETA AND QUANTITY NOT GIVEN); AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN CONTACTED.

(B) RICE AND CORN: STOCKS IN MOZAMBIQUE ARE ADEQUATE TO MEET NORMAL CONSUMPTION NEEDS TIL JUNE, WHEN NEW CROPS WILL BE MARKETING. CURRENT SHORTAGES OF THESE GRAINS ARE DUE TO HOARDING AND "MANEUVERS OF REACTIONARIES AND PROFITEERS...DESIGNED TO CREATE ATMOSPHERE OF SOCIAL INSTABILITY". THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING MEASURES TO PUNISH THIS "ECONOMIC SABOTAGE" OBSTRUCTING DECOLONIZATION PROCESS.

2. COMMENT: COMMUNIQUE REFLECTS SERIOUS GOVERNMENT CONCERN AT POSSIBLE ADVERSE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF CURRENT SHORTAGES OF BASIC STAPLES. IN VIEW DELAY OF WHEAT ORDERED COMMERCIALY FROM U.S., IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE WILL BE BREAD SHORTAGE IN MOZAMBIQUE FOR NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS (BREAD IS ALREADY VERY HARD TO FIND IN LOURENCO MARQUES). SINCE AMOUNTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND ZAMBIA ARE VERY SMALL AND WHEAT SUPPLY FROM ROMANIA FAR FROM SURE (BOTH IN TIMING AND IN QUANTITY), EARLY USG WHEAT AID STILL CRUCIAL, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY.

WALKER

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